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SOURCE

1949 Ball Bearing Requirements

"The annexed list of the 1949 ball bearing requirements was computed by the main administration for material supply. This list submitted by the Main Administration of the German Economic Commission comprises the requirements of the provinces and of the zonal enterprises. The German Trade Company unfortunately cannot yet make indications on ball bearing types and sizes, as the Province of Saxony has not yet reported these indications despite repeated urging.

The total requirements are as follows:

Provincial plants	1,305,147)	3,505,022
Zonal plants	2,199,875)	
Soviet Corporation plants	5,034,000	
Total:	8,539,022	

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The total ball bearing needs, according to types and sizes, cannot yet be ascertained, as the requirements (except engineering construction and electrical engineering) refer mainly to replenishing reserves and repairs. This can only be arranged according to experience. The new ball bearing production is largely required by the Main Administration for engineering construction and electrical engineering. The following facts must be stated with regard to this new production:

"The Soviet Zone of Germany 1949 ball bearing requirements amount to approximately 3.5 million pieces. The plan for the ball bearing production increase is based on these requirements. A monthly output of 300,000 pieces was projected which would correspond to an annual production of approximately 3.6 million pieces. The submitted plan is computed on the basis of this amount. The program probably cannot be achieved in full until 1950, as the necessary machines cannot be delivered before 1949.

1949 Ball Bearing Requirements

Consumer	Ball bearing of 100mm outer diameter, radial bearings		Roller bearing of 100 mm outer diameter	
	up to	exceeding	up to	exceeding
Mecklenburg	38,900	354	1,427	207
Brandenburg	45,030	10,426	12,170	5,805
Saxony	485,200	11,300	80,900	4,550
Saxony-Anhalt	109,573	53,432	30,000	18,177
Thuringia	145,575	46,963	98,060	26,245
BERLIN (Soviet Sector)	60,000	5,000	8,000	350
	894,281	127,975	237,557	55,334
			total:	1,305,147
Metallurgie	6,470	2,118	3,612	1,687
Engineering Construction	904,649	27,401	214,772	18,292
Stones and earth	4,586	654	4,005	98
Chemical industry	14,293	3,381	17,397	1,570
Textile industry	57,565	4,454	21,495	11,667
Food industry	61,044	7,631	14,838	8,011
Agriculture and forestry	40,000	400	105,000	800
Post and communication	1,500	1,000	1,500	1,000
Power industry	3,660	820	2,629	790
Central administration and organization	1,635	68	829	--
Communications	249,612	116,420	487	270,025
Trade and supply	--	--	--	--
	1,345,614	164,357	286,564	303,940
			total:	2,199,875
provincial enterprises:			1,305,147	
zonal plants			2,199,875	
Soviet Corporation Plants (requirements in the second half of 1948 - 2,517,000)			5,034,000	
Total:			8,539,022	

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Comment:

a. The Soviet Zone of Germany always had to depend on imports to supply its industries with needed ball bearings as the German centers for ball bearing production are located in Silesia. This situation has been made worse by the Soviet dismantlings, especially of the BERLIN and ERKNER ball bearing plants.

b. In 1948 the Soviets abandoned their destructive economic policy and permitted the reconstruction of the Soviet Zone industries which is indicated by the Two Year Plan for 1949-1950. According to this plan, the 1950 production is scheduled to be 51 percent of the 1936 figures.

c. The prewar annual ball bearing needs of the Soviet Zone amounted to approximately fifteen million pieces. If the production of these industrial branches, which are ball bearing consumers, shall increase to 51 percent of the 1936 peacetime production at the end of the Two Year Plan, the approximate ball bearing requirements must be estimated at twelve million pieces. This report indicates the 1949 ball bearing requirements at only about 8.5 million pieces (including the needs of the Soviet Corporation plants.) It is also stated that this production figure cannot be attained until 1950, after the increase of the plant machine installations. The ball bearing needs therefore cannot yet be fully supplied by the Soviet Zone domestic production in 1950.

d. The ball bearing plants, which after Soviet dismantling were returned to the Germans and meanwhile were restored are located in:

BERLIN (Norddeutsche Kugellagerfabrik)
ERKNER near BERLIN ("Vereinigte Kugellagerfabriken - Combined Ball bearing Plants, Corp.)
STADTILM (M 51/J 34) ("Gelenkwellenwerk Thuringen VEB" - Thuringia Cardan Shaft Plant, nationalized plant, formerly "Rheinmetall- Borsig")
RONNEBURG/Thuringia (M 51/K 16) (formerly Richard Nitzsche and Co.)
FRAUREUTH/Thuringia (N 51/K 24), which is scheduled to be enlarged to become the important Soviet Zone Ball bearing plant.)

e. The ball bearing plants which were transferred into Soviet state property in 1946 and were assigned to the "Avtovelo" Soviet Corporation, are located in:

BOEHLITZ-EHRENBERG near LEIPZIG (N 52/E 42) (Deutsche Kugellagerfabrik)
ZELLA-MEHLIS (M 51/J 03) (Kugellagerfabrik - ball bearing plant Karl REICH)
MARIENTHAL - SCHWEINA (M 52/J 68) (ball bearing plant HELLER)

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The production of ball bearings in the Eckhold firm, WEERNIGERODE (N 52/D 16), in the DIERSEN (N 52/E 29) "Vogel & Schlegel" firm and the LINDACH (N 51/A 56) Paessler Plants has not been confirmed.

h. The "zonal plants" mentioned in the report are sequestered former private plants which are directly subordinated to the German Economic Commission. The "provincial enterprises" are sequestered former private plants the management of which was left to the Soviet Zone provincial governments.

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